

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

PLAYUP, INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DR. LAILA MINTAS,

Defendant.

Case No.: 2:21-cv-02129-GMN-NJK

**ORDER**

Pending before the Court is the Motion for the Emergency Motion for Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order, (ECF No. 2), filed by Plaintiff PlayUp, Inc. (“Plaintiff”).<sup>1</sup>

Also pending before the Court is Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to File Under Seal Exhibits Attached to the Complaint, (ECF No. 9).<sup>2</sup>

For the reasons set forth below, Plaintiff’s Motion for Temporary Restraining Order is **GRANTED in part and DENIED in part**. Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to File Under Seal is **GRANTED**.

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff also filed a Notice of the Federal Court of Australia’s Order, which restrains Defendant Dr. Laila Mintas from publishing false information about Plaintiff and disposing of Plaintiff’s assets. (*See* Notice of Lodging Federal Court of Australia’s Order, ECF No. 10).

<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff requests leave to seal its Interactive Operations Agreement and Online Market Access Agreement, which are attached as Exhibit 1 to Daniel Simic’s Affidavit, at pages 133 through 293. (Mot. for Leave to File Under Seal, ECF No. 9). The Court finds good cause to seal the records. *Kamakana v. City & Cty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1179 (9th Cir. 2006) (compelling reasons exist to justify sealing court records when court files may “release trade secrets”). Plaintiff alleges that these agreements contain commercially sensitive proprietary information regarding “PlayUp’s operations, processes, and procedures with its partners.” (Mot. for Leave to File Under Seal 2:17–18). The Court agrees and accordingly grants Plaintiff leave to file under seal the Interactive Operations Agreement and Online Market Access Agreement.

1 **I. BACKGROUND**

2 This action arises from Defendant Laila Mintas' ("Defendant's") purported use of  
3 Plaintiff's confidential information and alleged disparagement of PlayUp, Inc. in violation of  
4 Defendant's employment agreement with Plaintiff (the "Employment Agreement"). (*See*  
5 Compl. ¶¶ 8–10, 14, ECF No. 1). Plaintiff alleges the following:

6 Plaintiff PlayUp operates a global online and sports betting business. (*Id.* ¶¶ 5–6). In  
7 early 2019, Plaintiff sought to expand its gaming business into the United States. (Aff. Daniel  
8 Simic ("Simic Aff.") ¶ 9, Ex. 1 to Compl., ECF No. 1-2). Plaintiff hired Defendant to develop  
9 its business operations within the United States. (*Id.* ¶ 10). On November 30, 2019, Plaintiff  
10 and Defendant entered into the Employment Agreement, in which Plaintiff agreed to serve as  
11 the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of PlayUp, Inc. for two years. (*Id.*); (*see also*  
12 Employment Agreement at 115–125, Ex. 2 to Compl., ECF No. 1-3).

13 The Agreement includes a "Confidentiality, Non-Competition, Non-Solicitation, and  
14 Non-Disparagement" provision. (*See* Employment Agreement § 6). Pursuant to the terms of  
15 the Agreement, "Confidential Information" is defined to mean "financial plans, business plans,  
16 business concepts, know-how and intellectual property and materials related thereto." (*Id.*).  
17 The Agreement expressly imposes confidentiality and non-competition obligations. For  
18 example, it prohibits Defendant from the following:

19 (a) Executive agrees that she shall not, directly or indirectly, take commercial or  
20 proprietary advantage of, profit from, use or disclose to any Person any Confidential  
21 Information, except in connection with the good faith performance of Executive's  
22 duties hereunder or required by law. If ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction  
23 to disclose Confidential Information, Executive shall immediately provide written  
24 notice of that fact to the Board, enclose a copy of the subpoena and any other  
25 documents describing the legal obligation, and cooperate with the Company's  
efforts to object to, or limit, the disclosure obligation.

(b) During the Employment Term, the Executive's Employment with the Company  
following the Employment Term, and for a period of six (6) months from the date  
of termination of Executive's employment for any reason, the Executive shall not,

1 anywhere within the United States either as principal, agent, employee, consultant,  
2 partner, officer, director, shareholder, or in any other individual or representative  
3 capacity, own, manage, finance, operate, control or otherwise engage or participate  
4 in any manner or fashion in an employment, business, or other activity competitive  
5 with the Company.

(See Employment Agreement at 6–7).

6 Further, the Agreement expressly restricts Defendant from engaging “in any form of  
7 conduct or mak[ing] any statements or representations that disparage, portray in a negative  
8 light, or otherwise impair the reputation or commercial interests of the Company or its past,  
9 present and future Subsidiaries.” (*Id.* § 6(e)).

10 Around November 2021, Plaintiff and Defendant began negotiations to renew  
11 Defendant’s Employment Agreement. (Simic Aff. ¶¶ 22–23). Defendant demanded the  
12 following in exchange for renewing her contract: (1) an annual remuneration increase from  
13 \$500,000.00 USD to \$1,000,000.00 USD; (2) an increase in her PlayUp shareholding to a net  
14 15% non-dilutable holding; (3) appointment to Global Chief Executive Officer of PlayUp; and  
15 (4) termination of Daniel Simic, current Global Chief Executive Officer of PlayUp. (*Id.* ¶ 24).  
16 Plaintiff and Defendant did not reach an agreement as to the terms of the renewal. (*Id.* ¶ 23).

17 In response to Plaintiff’s refusal to Defendant’s renewal terms, Defendant allegedly  
18 engaged in conduct directly in violation of the Agreement. (*Id.* ¶ 26). Specifically, Defendant  
19 purportedly contacted Mr. Sam Bankman-Fried, a proprietor of FTX Limited. (*Id.*). Plaintiff  
20 and FTX Limited were allegedly in negotiations for FTX Limited to purchase some of  
21 Plaintiff’s assets for the sale price of \$450 million USD plus script for staff incentivization in  
22 FTX (the “FTX sale”). (*Id.* ¶¶ 18, 26). During the negotiations, Defendant purportedly  
23 informed FTX Limited that “there is conflict within management of PlayUP, there are systemic  
24 issues, and that the company is not clean.” (*Id.* ¶ 26). Plaintiff alleges that Defendant’s  
25 statements ultimately caused the failure of the FTX sale. (*Id.*). Furthermore, as part of her  
response to Plaintiff’s refusal to renew her proposed terms, Defendant purportedly threatened to

1 damage Plaintiff's reputation to gaming regulators, commercial and business trading partners,  
2 and customers. (*Id.*).

3 Plaintiff filed suit on November 30, 2011, alleging breach of contract, breach of implied  
4 covenant of good faith and fair dealing, breach of fiduciary duty, and violation of the Nevada  
5 Uniform Trade Secrets Act ("NUTSA"), NRS Chapter 600A. (Compl., ECF No. 1). Plaintiff  
6 also filed the instant Motion pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for an  
7 order, specifically enforcing:

8 the "Confidentiality and Non-Disparagement obligations set forth in Sections 6(a)  
9 and 6(e) of her Employment Agreement, including but not limited to, her obligation  
10 not to use or disclose any of PlayUp's Confidential Information . . . [and] PlayUp's  
11 trade secrets for any other purpose other than in connection with the good faith  
12 performance of her duties under the Employment Agreement.

13 (Mot. Temporary Restraining Order ("TRO"), ECF No. 2).

## 14 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

15 The same legal standard applies to both temporary restraining orders and preliminary  
16 injunctions sought pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65. *See Stuhlberg Int'l Sales*  
17 *Co. v. John D. Brush & Co.*, 240 F.3d 832, 839 n.7 (9th Cir. 2001) (noting that the analysis  
18 applied to temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions is "substantially identical").  
19 A preliminary injunction is "an extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded upon a clear  
20 showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief." *Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*,  
21 555 U.S. 7, 24 (2008). A court may grant such relief only upon a petitioner's showing of (1)  
22 likelihood of success on the merits, (2) likelihood of irreparable harm in the absence of  
23 preliminary relief, (3) the balance of equities weighs in petitioner's favor, and (4) an injunction  
24 is in the public interest. *Id.* at 20. A temporary restraining order is distinguished by its  
25 "underlying purpose of preserving the status quo and preventing irreparable harm just so long  
as is necessary to hold a hearing, and no longer." *Granny Goose Foods, Inc. v. Brotherhood of*

1 *Teamsters & Auto Truck Drivers Local No. 70*, 415 U.S. 423, 439 (1974); *see also* Fed. R. Civ.  
2 P. 65(b) (limiting temporary restraining orders to 14 days unless extended for good cause, and  
3 providing for expedited hearings on preliminary injunctions).

4 “The urgency of obtaining a preliminary injunction necessitates a prompt determination  
5 and makes it difficult to obtain affidavits from persons who would be competent to testify at  
6 trial. The trial court may give even inadmissible evidence some weight, when to do so serves  
7 the purpose of preventing irreparable harm before trial.” *Flynt Distrib. Co., Inc. v. Harvey*, 734  
8 F.2d 1389, 1394 (9th Cir. 1984) (citing 11 C. Wright and A. Miller, *Federal Practice and*  
9 *Procedure, Civil*, § 2949 at 471 (1973)).

### 10 **III. DISCUSSION**

11 The Court, having considered the Complaint, Plaintiff’s Motion, supporting affidavits,  
12 and accompanying exhibits, finds that Plaintiff has met each of the *Winter* factors as to its  
13 breach of contract claim. Thus, the issuance of a limited temporary restraining order  
14 specifically enforcing Section 6(e) of the Employment Agreement is appropriate.

#### 15 **A. NOTICE**

16 A court may issue an *ex parte* temporary restraining order only if “the movant’s attorney  
17 certifies in writing any efforts to give notice and the reasons why it should not be required.”  
18 Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b)(1)(B). Furthermore, the movant must supply “specific facts in an  
19 affidavit or verified complaint clearly show[ing] that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or  
20 damage will result to the movant before the adverse party can be heard in opposition.” Fed. R.  
21 Civ. P. 65(b)(1)(A).

22 Here, Plaintiff sufficiently demonstrates that notice and further delay will cause  
23 immediate and irreparable injury to Plaintiff. On November 26, 2021, Farshad Amirbeaggi,  
24 Plaintiff’s counsel, spoke to Defendant but was unable to resolve the dispute. (*See* Aff. Farshad  
25 Amirbeaggi (“Amirbeaggi Aff.”) ¶ 2, Ex. 4 to Compl., ECF No. 1-5). Defendant’s threats

1 appear substantiated as she reiterated her threat to others—including Benson Ross, an advisor  
 2 to PlayUp’s board, and Daniel Simic, Global CEO of PlayUP—with a December 1, 2021  
 3 deadline she refused to extend. (Simic Aff. ¶¶ 25–27). In addition, Defendant appears to have  
 4 carried out her threat to harm Plaintiff’s reputation by making negative statements to FTX  
 5 Limited during the negotiation of the FTX Sale. (*Id.* ¶ 26). Plaintiff has thus shown that  
 6 immediate and irreparable harm will result as to Plaintiff’s reputation and goodwill if  
 7 Defendant is notified of the temporary restraining order.

## 8 **B. LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS ON THE MERITS**

9 Plaintiff argues that Defendant misappropriated Plaintiff’s trade secrets in violation of  
 10 the NUTSA and further, that Defendant breached the Employment Agreement. (*See* Mot. TRO  
 11 8:16–11:23). The Court addresses each claim in turn.

### 12 **1. Nevada Uniform Trade Secrets Act**

13 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant has or threatens to misappropriate PlayUp’s trade secrets  
 14 and proprietary business information in direct violation of the Confidentiality provision in the  
 15 Employment Agreement. (*Id.* 10:18–24). In order to state a claim for misappropriation under  
 16 the NUTSA, a plaintiff must allege: (1) a valuable trade secret; (2) misappropriation of the  
 17 trade secret through use, disclosure, or nondisclosure of use of the trade secret; and (3) that the  
 18 misappropriation was made in breach of an express or implied contract or by a party with a  
 19 duty not to disclose. *Frantz v. Johnson*, 999 P.2d 351, 358 (Nev. 2000). A trade secret is  
 20 “information, including, without limitation, a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device,  
 21 method, technique, product, system, process, design, prototype, procedure, computer  
 22 programming instruction” that “[d]erives independent economic value, actual or potential, from  
 23 not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by the  
 24 public or any other persons who can obtain commercial or economic value from its disclosure  
 25 or use” and is “the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its

1 secrecy.” NRS 600A.030(5); 18 U.S.C. § 1839 (providing similar definition). In addition, the  
2 NUTSA defines “misappropriation” as “acquisition of a trade secret of another by a person who  
3 knows or has reason to know that the trade secret was acquired by improper means” or  
4 “disclosure or use of a trade secret of another without express or implied consent” in specified  
5 circumstances. 18 U.S.C. § 1839(5)(A); NRS 600A.030.

6 Here, Plaintiff has not shown that it will likely meet each of these elements. As to the  
7 first element, Plaintiff demonstrates that its Confidential Information—“financial plans,  
8 business plans, business concepts, know-how, and intellectual property”—are likely trade  
9 secrets under the NUTSA. (*See* Employment Agreement § 6). “Factors to consider include the  
10 extent to which others outside the business know the information, the ease or difficulty with  
11 which others could acquire the information properly, whether the information was confidential  
12 or secret, and the measures the employer took to guard the information’s secrecy.” *V.C.X., Ltd.*  
13 *v. Burge*, No. 2:06-CV-00641-PMP-RJJ, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 88050, at \*15 (D. Nev. Nov.  
14 30, 2006) (citing *Frantz*, 116 Nev. at 467). PlayUp’s financial statements and affairs are  
15 discussed during monthly board meetings, limited to PlayUp’s board and management. (Simic  
16 Aff. ¶ 33). Plaintiff has made reasonable efforts to maintain said information private by  
17 engaging in restrictive covenants, like the Employment Agreement with Defendant, to limit the  
18 distribution of Confidential Information. (*See* Employment Agreement § 6).

19 Similarly, as to the third element, Plaintiff was contractually bound to not divulge  
20 Confidential Information to any person. (*See id.*). The critical issue, therefore, is whether  
21 Plaintiff has sufficiently demonstrated that Defendant likely misappropriated or used  
22 Confidential Information.

23 Here, Plaintiff broadly argues that Defendant’s misappropriation of Confidential  
24 Information during the FTX sale and Defendant’s ongoing threats demonstrate that she likely  
25 misappropriated PlayUp’s Confidential Information. (Mot. TRO 9:25–10:2, 10:18–24).



1 Plaintiff, however, fails to explain or provide specific evidence showing that Defendant used  
2 Confidential Information to stop the FTX sale. In his affidavit, Daniel Simic, Global CEO of  
3 PlayUp, states that Defendant contacted Mr. Sam Bankman-Fried, proprietor of FTX and gave  
4 him false information. (Simic Aff. ¶ 26(a)). Specifically, Defendant advised FTX Limited “that  
5 there is a conflict within management of PlayUp, there are systemic issues, and that the  
6 company is not clean, and in so doing has caused the failure of the sale of PlayUp to FTX.”  
7 (*Id.*). However, nowhere does Plaintiff identify that Defendant used Confidential Information  
8 to harm Plaintiff’s reputation to FTX Limited. As stated above, Plaintiff defines Confidential  
9 Information as financial plans, business plans, and intellectual property. (*See* Employment  
10 Agreement § 6). It is just as likely that Plaintiff advised FTX Limited to not proceed with the  
11 sale without alluding to Plaintiff’s business and financial plans. Plaintiff has thus failed to  
12 make a “clear showing” that it is entitled to the “extraordinary remedy” of injunctive relief. *See*  
13 *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 22.

14 Plaintiff does not provide additional explanation in its Motion. For example, Plaintiff  
15 argues that “[i]t is further undisputed that Dr. Mintas has misappropriated and/or threatens to  
16 misappropriate trade secrets in direct violation of her obligations as set forth in her  
17 Employment Agreement.” (Mot. TRO 9:28–10:2). Additionally, Plaintiff asserts that “the  
18 evidence will demonstrate that Dr. Mintas has or threatens to misappropriate PlayUp’s trade  
19 secrets.” (*Id.* 10:21–22). Plaintiff, however, fails to provide specific evidence explaining how  
20 Defendant used Confidential Information to ultimately cause the failure of PlayUp’s assets to  
21 FTX, or if Defendant even used Plaintiff’s Confidential Information in the course of advising  
22 FTX. The Court accordingly finds that Plaintiff fails to demonstrate that Defendant likely  
23 misappropriated Plaintiff’s trade secrets.

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25 ///



## 2. Breach of Contract

Nevertheless, Plaintiff demonstrates that Defendant likely breached her Employment Contract. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief to enforce the terms of the Employment Agreement, particularly the non-solicitation and non-disparagement provision. (Mot. TRO 13:16–19). A claim for breach of contract must allege (1) the existence of a valid contract; (2) that plaintiff performed or was excused from performance; (3) that the defendant breached the terms of the contract; and (4) that the plaintiff was damaged as a result of the breach. *See* Restatement (Second) of Contracts § 203 (2007); *Calloway v. City of Reno*, 116 Nev. 250, 993 P.2d 1259, 1263 (Nev. 2000) (“A breach of contract may be said to be a material failure of performance of a duty arising under or imposed by agreement.”). An enforceable contract requires: (1) an offer and acceptance; (2) meeting of the minds; and (3) consideration. *May v. Anderson*, 121 Nev. 668, 119 P.3d 1254, 1257 (Nev. 2005).

Here, Plaintiff has demonstrated that a valid employment contract likely existed between Plaintiff and Defendant. Plaintiff provides a copy of the Employment Agreement signed by then-Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Simic and Defendant Laila Mintas. (*See* Employment Agreement at 12). “Nevada law allows for the enforcement of reasonable restrictive covenants in employment agreements, and recognizes that a valid, restrictive covenant may be enforced by way of temporary and permanent injunctive relief.” *Accelerated Care Plus Corp. v. Diversicare Mgmt. Servs. Co.*, No. 3:11-cv-00585-RCJ-RAM, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 93839, at \*10 (D. Nev. Aug. 22, 2011) (citing Nev. Rev. Stat. § 613.200). Here, the Employment Agreement provides a restrictive covenant preventing Defendant from engaging or participating in an employment, business, or other activity competitive with the Company in the United States during the course of her employment and for six (6) months from the date of termination. (Employment Agreement § 6(b)). The six-month restrictive covenant appears reasonable under

1 the circumstances and according to Nevada law. *See Ellis v. McDaniel*, 95 Nev. 455, 596 P.2d  
2 222 (Nev. 1979) (upholding a two-year restrictive covenant).

3 Plaintiff has also shown that Defendant performed under the contract given that she  
4 served as the Chief Executive Officer for approximately two-years. By Daniel Simic's own  
5 admission, "PlayUp's expansion into the United States has been very successful. It is lead in  
6 the United States by [Defendant]." (Simic Aff. ¶ 16).

7 As to breach, Plaintiff has also established that Defendant likely breached the  
8 Employment Agreement. Defendant agreed, pursuant to the Employment Agreement, not to  
9 "make any statements or representations that disparage, portray in a negative light, or otherwise  
10 impair the reputation or commercial interests of the Company." (Employment Agreement §  
11 6(e)). Defendant breached this provision, during the course of her employment as CEO of  
12 PlayUp, when she apparently advised FTX about conflict within PlayUp's management  
13 regarding Simic's criminal and unethical conduct and other systemic issues at PlayUp. (Simic  
14 Aff. ¶ 26). Without the benefit of counter-evidence, these issues appear to have negatively  
15 impacted PlayUp during its crucial negotiations with FTX Limited. Furthermore, Defendant  
16 allegedly stated that "FTX made [her] an offer to do something directly with them," and that  
17 she believed she could take various licenses with her, suggesting that Defendant breached the  
18 non-competition provision of the Employment Agreement. (Afff. Ross Benson ("Benson Aff.")  
19 ¶ 11, Ex. 3 to Compl., ECF No. 1-4). Lastly, Plaintiff has demonstrated that it was likely  
20 damaged as a result of Defendant's breach, including loss of goodwill, damage to reputation,  
21 and loss of future profits, all illustrated by the failed sale to FTX. The Court accordingly finds  
22 that the first *Winter* factor—likelihood of success on the merits—weighs in Plaintiff's favor as  
23 to its breach of contract claim.

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25 ///

### 1 C. LIKELIHOOD OF IRREPARABLE HARM

2 Plaintiff also argues that it will be irreparably harmed if the Court declines to issue a  
 3 temporary restraining order. (Mot. TRO 11:24–12:13). To carry its burden, Plaintiff must also  
 4 establish that it will likely suffer irreparable harm without the issuance of injunctive relief.  
 5 *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 21. Plaintiff must “demonstrate a likelihood of irreparable injury—not just  
 6 a possibility—in order to obtain preliminary relief.” *Id.*

7 Here, given the timing and sequence of events, and without the benefit of counter-  
 8 evidence, the Court can reasonably infer that Defendant intends to continually disparage  
 9 Plaintiff in the course of carrying out her threats to harm Plaintiff’s reputation and standing.  
 10 According to Plaintiff’s evidence, Plaintiff and FTX Limited were in negotiations for the sale  
 11 of Plaintiff’s assets as early as August 27, 2021. (Simic Aff. ¶ 18). On November 10, 2011,  
 12 Defendant threatened to “burn PlayUp to the ground” and further commented that “FTX don’t  
 13 [sic] even want the Australian business.” (*Id.* ¶ 32(b)). The deadline for the FTX sale was  
 14 November 27, 2021. (*Id.* ¶ 32(f)). Taken together, the Court can infer that Defendant carried  
 15 out her threats to harm PlayUp’s reputation, standing, and goodwill. *See Rent-A-Center, Inc. v.*  
 16 *Canyon Television and Appliance Rental, Inc.*, 944 F.2d 597, 603 (9th Cir. 1991) (upholding  
 17 the district court’s issuance of a preliminary injunction to enforce non-compete agreement and  
 18 finding that “intangible injuries” to advertising efforts and goodwill can constitute irreparable  
 19 harm). Indeed, Ross Benson, an advisor to PlayUp’s board, stated in his Affidavit that  
 20 Defendant “has sufficient control over PlayUp and PlayUp Inc.’s technology, records,  
 21 operations, data, and contracts to enable her to carry out the threats that she is making.”  
 22 (Benson Aff. ¶ 12). Plaintiff has thus shown that allowing Defendant to continuously spread  
 23 disparaging comments concerning PlayUp, Inc. will likely result in immediate and irreparable  
 24 injury to Plaintiff in the form of loss of income, loss of goodwill, damage to its reputation, and  
 25 damage to its business relationships. (Simic Aff. ¶ 26); *see Saini v. Int’l Game Tech.*, 434 F.

1 Supp. 2d 913, 919 (D. Nev. 2006) (holding that the harm occasioned by disclosure of trade  
2 secrets or confidential information is sufficient to meet the irreparable harm requirement);  
3 *WeRide Corp. v. Kun Huang*, 379 F. Supp. 3d 834, 853 (N.D. Cal. 2019); *Planned Parenthood*  
4 *of Great Nw. & Hawaiian Islands, Inc. v. Azar*, 352 F. Supp. 3d 1057, 1065 (W.D. Wash.  
5 2018). The likelihood of irreparable harm element is therefore satisfied.

#### 6 **D. BALANCE OF EQUITIES**

7 Plaintiff asserts that the balance of hardships also weigh in its favor. (Mot. TRO 12:14–  
8 13:2). The Nevada Supreme Court has recognized that “[e]mployers commonly rely upon  
9 restrictive covenants, primarily nondisclosure and noncompetition covenants, to safeguard  
10 important business interests.” *Traffic Control Servs. v. United Rentals Nw., Inc.*, 120 Nev. 168,  
11 172, 87 P.3d 1054, 1057 (2004). The interest of the business (e.g., the potential loss of  
12 goodwill) is often balanced with the loss of a person’s livelihood. (*Id.* at 7).

13 Here, the balance of equities tip in favor of Plaintiff. If Defendant does not carry out her  
14 threats of spreading false information about Plaintiff, then imposition of this temporary  
15 restraining order will not harm Defendant. Conversely, even if Defendant disparages Plaintiff’s  
16 reputation and standing, imposing this temporary restraining order will not harm any of  
17 Defendant’s personal interest. Imposing this temporary restraining order will effectively hold  
18 Defendant to the terms of the already agreed-upon Employment Agreement. As such, this  
19 factor favors Plaintiff.

#### 20 **E. PUBLIC INTEREST**

21 “The public interest analysis for the issuance of [injunctive relief] requires [district  
22 courts] to consider whether there exists some critical public interest that would be injured by  
23 the grant of preliminary relief.” *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1138  
24 (9th Cir. 2011) (citation omitted). In this case, the Court finds no such public interest that  
25 would be injured by the issuance of such injunctive relief.

1 In sum, the Court finds that Plaintiff has satisfied the requirements of imposing a  
2 temporary restraining order on Defendant; however, only as to Plaintiff's breach of contract  
3 claim. As explained above, Plaintiff demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits of its  
4 breach of contract claim; however, failed to show that Defendant likely misappropriated trade  
5 secrets during the FTX sale. The Court accordingly grants a limited temporary restraining  
6 order to hold Defendant to the Non-Disparagement provision of the Employment Agreement—  
7 Section 6(e). *See Gallagher Benefit Servs. v. De La Torre*, 283 F. App'x 543, 546 (9th Cir.  
8 2008) ("Where injunctive relief is warranted, the order must be narrowly tailored to 'remedy  
9 only the specific harms shown by the plaintiffs, rather than to enjoin all possible breaches of the  
10 law.'") (citing *Price v. City of Stockton*, 390 F.3d 1105, 1117 (9th Cir. 2004) (per curiam)  
11 (citation omitted)).

#### 12 **F. BOND**

13 The issuance of a temporary restraining order is conditioned on the movant posting  
14 security "in an amount that the court considers proper to pay the costs and damages sustained  
15 by any party found to have been wrongfully enjoined or restrained." Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c). "The  
16 district court is afforded wide discretion in setting the amount of the bond, and the bond amount  
17 may be zero if there is no evidence the party will suffer damages from the injunction." *Conn.*  
18 *Gen. Life Ins. Co. v. New Images of Beverly Hills*, 321 F.3d 878, 882 (9th Cir. 2003). Further, a  
19 strong likelihood of success on the merits may favor "a minimal bond or no bond at all."  
20 *California v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency*, 766 F.2d 1319, 1326 (9th Cir. 1985).

21 Given the likelihood that Plaintiff will succeed on the merits of its breach of contract  
22 claim and the limited hardship that a temporary restraining order will impose, there is a low  
23 probability that Defendant will suffer damages caused by an improperly granted temporary  
24 restraining order. The Court therefore declines to order a bond in this case.  
25

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Plaintiff's Motion for Temporary Restraining Order,  
3 (ECF No. 2), is **GRANTED in part and DENIED in part**. Defendant is **TEMPORARILY**  
4 **RESTRAINED** from:

5 (1) engaging in any form of conduct or making statements or representations that  
6 disparage, portray in a negative light, or otherwise impair the reputation or commercial  
7 interest of Plaintiff PlayUp, Inc., although Defendant is not prevented from making any  
8 disclosure required or permitted by law; and

9 (2) breaching Section 6(e) of the Employment Agreement entered into by and between  
10 Defendant and Plaintiff, including various other terms and obligations merged therein.

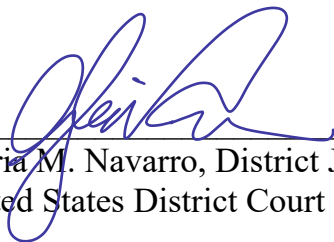
11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff shall serve Defendant with a copy of this  
12 Order by Monday, December 6, 2021.

13 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant shall have until Monday, December 13,  
14 2021, to file its response brief to Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction, (ECF No. 4).  
15 Thereafter, Plaintiff shall have until Wednesday, December 15, 2021, to file its reply brief.

16 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this matter is set for hearing on Plaintiff's Motion  
17 for Preliminary Injunction on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 11:00 A.M. in Las Vegas  
18 Courtroom 7D.

19 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File Under Seal  
20 Exhibits Attached to the Complaint, (ECF No. 9), is **GRANTED**. The Clerk's Office is  
21 directed to seal Exhibit 1 of the Complaint. Plaintiff is to file a redacted copy of Exhibit 1.

22 **DATED** this 3 day of December, 2021.

23  
24  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria M. Navarro, District Judge  
United States District Court